

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, according to the American Heart Association, heart defects are the most common birth defect and are the number one cause of death from birth defects during infancy; and

WHEREAS, approximately 35,000 babies in the United States are born with a congenital heart defect each year; and

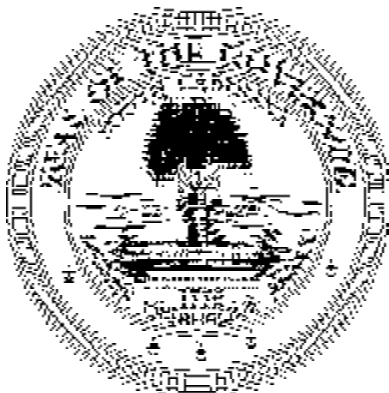
WHEREAS, tragically, many of these children will not survive into adulthood because of the severity of the defect, the absence of early detection, a lack of donor hearts, or failure of the medical intervention used; and

WHEREAS, "A Day for Hearts: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day" recognizes the courage of families of children with heart defects, remembers loved ones lost to congenital heart defects, and honors the medical professionals who dedicate themselves to this condition.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 14, 2003, as

A DAY FOR HEARTS: CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to promote public awareness of the importance of early diagnosis and intervention in saving the lives of children born with congenital heart defects.



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MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA